

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Covington House Inventory Number: S-344
Address: 12271 Somerset Avenue (675) (MD 675) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Princess Anne Zip Code: 21853 County: Somerset
USGS Quadrangle(s): Princess Anne
Property Owner: Tully, John O. Tax Account ID Number: 017201
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 735 Tax Map Number: 15
Project: MD 675 Agency: SHA
Agency Prepared By: EHT Tracerics, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Patti Kuhn Date Prepared: 7/11/2006
Documentation is presented in: _____
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Covington House 12271 Somerset Avenue

The Covington House is located at 12271 Somerset Avenue (MD 675) is sited on the east side of Somerset Road. A long gravel drive is located along the north side of the house, leading to Somerset Avenue. The house sits on a level grassy lot and mature trees and shrubs are scattered about the property. A wood-plank fence lines the south property line. A garage, barn, and former smoke house are sited north of the house, on the north side of the gravel drive.

The Covington house was constructed in three phases including a small one-room late eighteenth-century section and two additional sections that are believed to have been constructed during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. This three-part stepped form, or telescope house, is typical in Somerset County and the Eastern Shore. The building phases of the house reflect Greek Revival-style and Queens Anne-style influences. The frame house sits on a brick foundation and is clad in weatherboard siding with cornerboards. Its gabled roofs are covered in asphalt shingles.

The east end of the house consists of the late eighteenth-century section. It is one-and-a-half stories high and has a front-gabled roof with a raking boxed cornice with ogee returns. An exterior-end chimney of stretcher-bond brick and corbelled cap is located

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

John O. Tully
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

10/17/06
Date

Patti Kuhn
Reviewer, National Register Program

10/18/06
Date

on the west elevation. Fenestration consists of 6/6 windows with wood surrounds. A single-leaf paneled metal door with a fixed window is located on the east elevation. A screened-in porch with a shed roof is attached to the south elevation.

The nineteenth-century center section of the house is two stories high and has a front-gabled roof with a raking boxed cornice with ogee returns. The first and second stories of the north elevation each have a 6/6 window with wood surrounds. A one-story shed addition is attached to the south elevation and has two 6-light vinyl casement windows. An 8/8 vinyl-sash replacement window is located on the second story of the south elevation.

The nineteenth-century main block comprises the west end of the house, facing Somerset Avenue. It is two-and-a-half stories high and has an irregularly pitched front-gabled roof that extends southward. The roof has a raking boxed cornice with ogee returns and the center interior chimney is constructed of stretcher-bond brick and has brick dentils. The corners of the main block are ornamented by wood pilasters with recessed panels and an ogee cornice. The pitch of the roof and the unevenly spaced windows on the main (west) elevation suggest that the south bay of the house was originally a porch and initially the one-bay wide I-house was oriented south. By the turn of the twentieth century, the house consisted of its current configuration, indicated by Covington family photographs. The turned balustrade on the interior stair also indicates this section as a later addition. Currently, a wrap around porch lines the main (west) and south elevations. It has a shed roof, turned wood posts, and a plain wood frieze and cornice. The turned balustrade has been replaced with square balusters and the original fan-shaped corner brackets have been removed. The easternmost bay of the porch is enclosed and has a 6/6 window on its south elevation. A door, once located on the west elevation of the enclosed bay, has been enclosed. The main block of the house has 6/6 windows with wood sills and wood surrounds. The main (west) elevation is fenestrated by one window and a single-leaf wood door with four diamond panels and a 1-light fixed transom window. The second story has two windows and the attic has one smaller 6/6 window. The windows on the main elevation have wood louvered shutters. The north elevation has two windows on the first and second stories, all of which have louvered wood shutters. The east elevation has a smaller 6/6 window on the attic level.

Outbuildings

Constructed circa 1998, this frame garage is one-and-a-half stories high and one bay wide. It sits on a solid poured concrete foundation and is clad in vinyl siding. It has a front-gabled roof of asphalt shingles and overhanging eaves. The building is fenestrated by 6/6 vinyl-sash windows with vinyl louvered shutters. A vinyl paneled roll-up door is located on the south elevation of the garage.

This frame barn is one-and-a-half stories high and two bays wide and sits on a solid poured foundation. It is clad in weatherboard siding with cornerboards. Its front-gabled roof is covered in corrugated metal and has overhanging eaves. The main (south) elevation has new single-leaf metal paneled door and a vertical board sliding door that is no longer in use. A vertical-board hay loft door is located in the gable of the main elevation. Two 6-light fixed windows are located on the west elevation. The barn is connected to the former smoke house by a one-story hyphen. The frame hyphen is clad with weatherboard siding on its north elevation and has two open bays on its south elevation. It has a flat roof of corrugated metal. A one-story shed addition is attached to the rear elevation of the hyphen. The former smoke house is one-story high and one-bay wide. Constructed of wood framing, the building is clad in weatherboard siding and has a front-gabled roof of standing-seam metal. Its roof features a raking cornice and overhanging eaves with exposed rafters. A single-leaf vertical board door is located on the south elevation of the building. The construction date for these buildings is believed to be late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The former smoke house was moved to its present location during the twentieth century.

The boundary is confined to Parcel 735 as noted on Tax Map 15 of Somerset County, Maryland.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

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Covington House

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This property is not associated with the events and trends that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, thus disqualifying it for eligibility under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, or nation. Therefore, the Covington House at 12271 Somerset Avenue is not eligible under Criterion B. The original configuration of the Covington House, which was oriented to the north, was typical of telescope houses. The house originally extended horizontally with all three sections visible on the main façade. The reorientation of the house to the west with the enclosure of the original porch in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries obscures the traditional elements of the telescope form. In addition, a number of better examples of telescope houses exist throughout Maryland's Eastern Shore, and Somerset County including Linden Hill (MHIP# S-17) in Princess Anne, the Nelson Homestead (MHIP# S-245) in Crisfield, and Elmwood, in Oriole (MHIP # S-41). The removal of ornamental spindle brackets and the replacement of the original early twentieth-century porch have further diminished integrity of the house. In addition, the loss of its agricultural setting, including the lessened acreage and adjacent mid- and late-twentieth-century dwellings has further compromised the integrity of the Covington House. Therefore, the alterations to the primary dwelling and the loss of the historic setting have resulted in a loss of integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling sufficient for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. It is thus disqualified for eligibility under Criterion C. The Covington House was not evaluated under Criterion D. Therefore, it has been determined that the Covington House is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C.

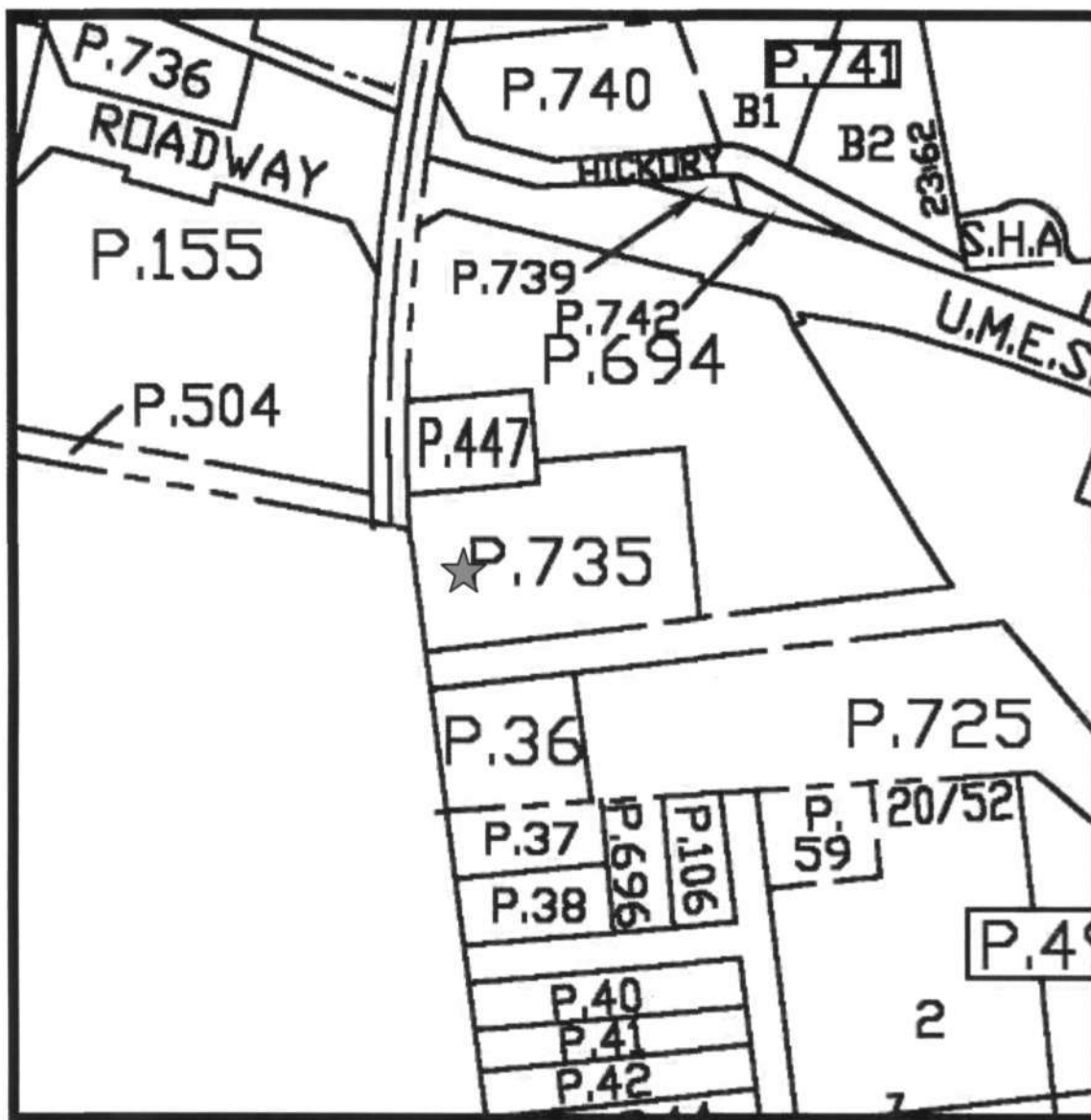
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date



12271 Somerset Avenue (MD 675)
Somerset County, Maryland: Princess Anne
Tax Parcel Map
Map 15, Parcel 735
EHT Traceries, Inc.





12271 Somerset Avenue
Somerset County, MD: Princess Anne
Princess Anne, MD USGS Map, 1997
EHT Tracerics, Inc.

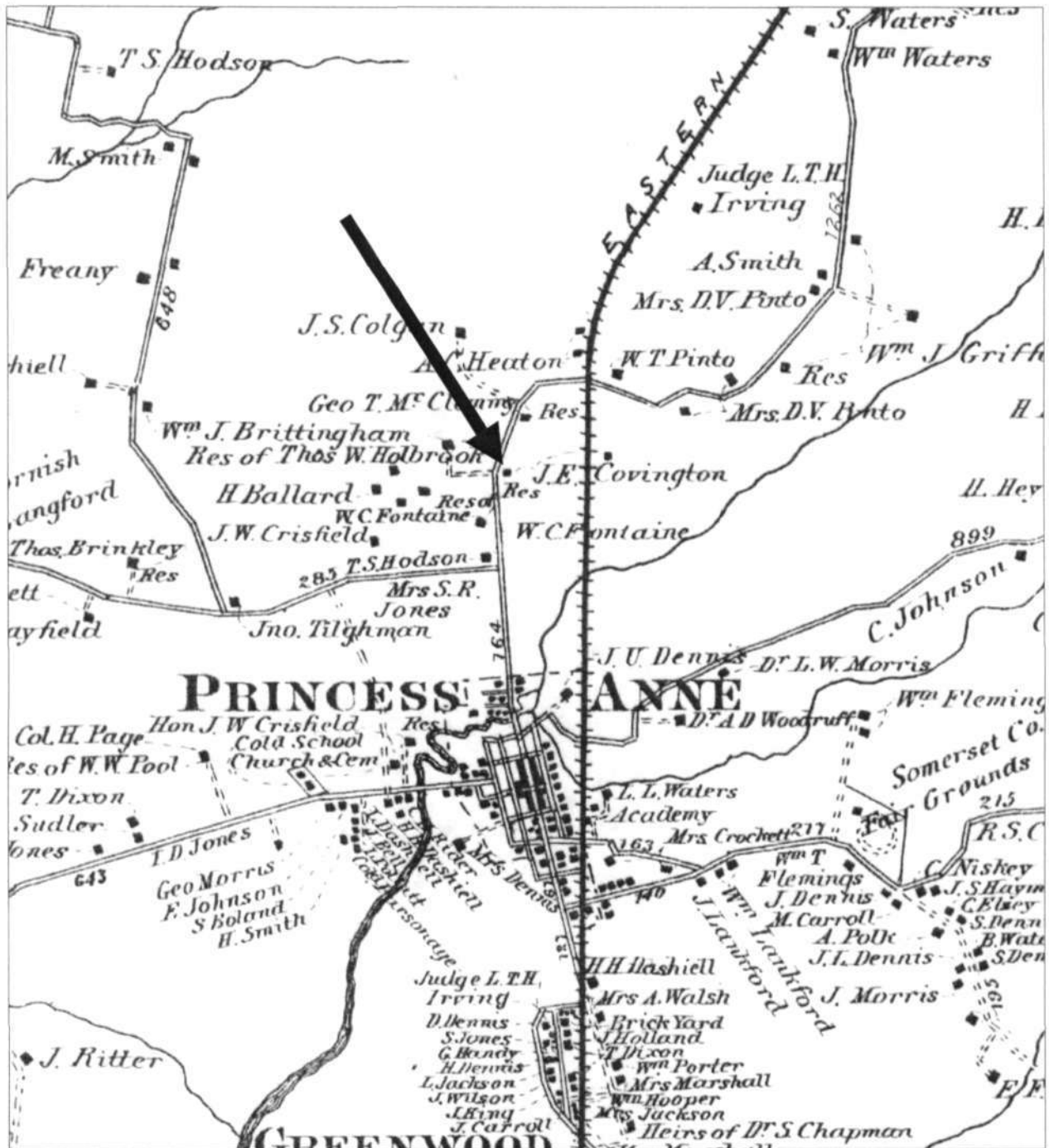
N

S-344

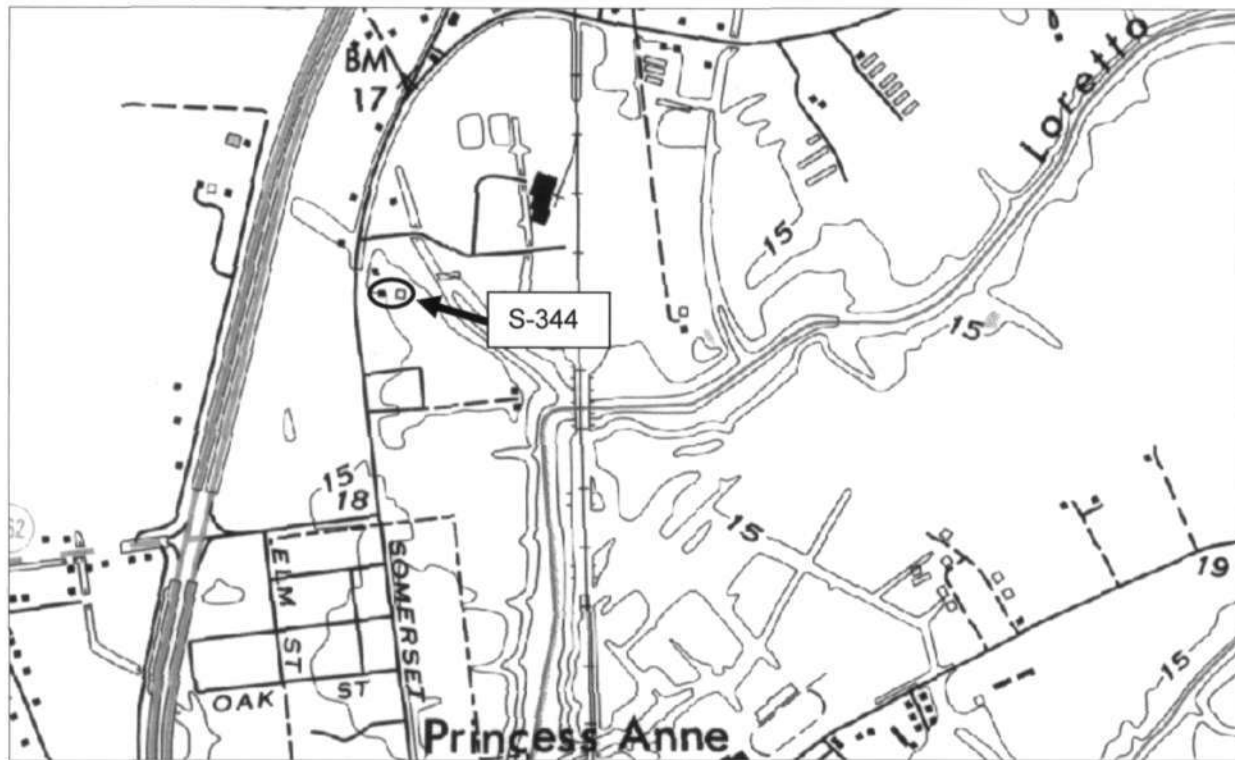
Covington House

12271 Somerset Avenue (MD 675), Princess Anne

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson (1877) Atlas of Wicomico, Worcester, & Somerset Counties, Maryland. District 1, Princess Anne

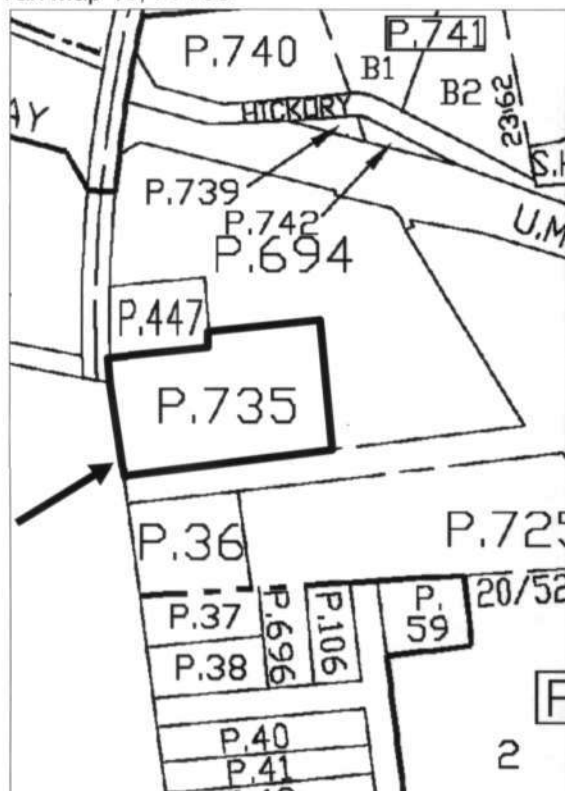


S-344
 Covington House
 12271 Somerset Avenue (MD 675), Princess Anne
 Princess Anne quad 1972



Tax Map 15, P. 735

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010





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COVINGTON HOUSE

12271 SOMERSET AVE.

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

GHT TRACERIES, INC

JULY 2004

MARYLAND SHPO

MAIN ELEVATION, LOOKING E181°

1 OF 9



8.344

COVINGTON HOUSE
12271 SOMERSET AVE.

SOMERSET COUNTY MARYLAND
EHT TRACERIES, INC.

JULY 2004

MARYLAND SITE

NORTHWEST CORNER, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

2 OF 9



S. 344

COVINGTON HOUSE

12271 SOMERSET AVE.

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

JULY 2004

MARYLAND SHED

SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

3059



8-344

COVINGTON House

12271 SOMERSET AVE.

SOMERSET-COUNTY MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

JULY 2011

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST-3 SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

4 OF 9



8-344

COVINGTON HOUSE

12271 SOMERSET AVE

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

ETH TRACERIES, INC

JULY 2004

MARYLAND SHDO

BARN & SMOKEHOUSE, COOKING NORTH

5 OF 9



8-344

COVINGTON HOUSE

12271 SOMERSET AVE.

SOMERSET COUNTY Maryland

EHF TRACERIES, INC.

JULY 2006

Maryland BHPD

SMOKEHOUSE, RAIL = GARAGE, LOOKING WEST

6 OF 9



8-344

COVINGTON HOUSE

12271 SOMERSET AVE

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES, INC

July 2004

Maryland 8140

Barre. NORTHWEST CORNER, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

17 OF 9



8-3-14

COVINGTON HOUSE

12271 SOMERSET AVE.

SOMERSET COUNTY, Maryland

EHT TRACERIES, INC

JULY 2004

MARYLAND 81400

GARAGE, BARN & SMOKEHOUSE, LOOKING EAST

8 OF 9



S-344

COVINGTON HOUSE

12271 SOMERSET AVE.

SOMERSET COUNTY Maryland

ETH TRACERIES INC

JULY 2004

MARYLAND SHPO

Garage, NORTHEAST CORNER LOOKING SOUTHWEST

9 OF 9

S-344
Covington House
Princess Anne vicinity
private

c.1790, c.1860

North of Princess Anne on the east side of the old Princess Anne-Upper Trappe road is the Covington house, a three-part stepped dwelling significant for its unusual form and late eighteenth-century rear section. The main two sections of the house were built during the third quarter of the nineteenth century in two principal stages. The two-story main house was enlarged shortly after construction by a two-story shed-roofed addition that contained the principal stair. The center section also appears to date to the middle years of the nineteenth century. However, tilted false-plate construction and remnants of a wood pinned roof distinguish the single-story third section, which probably dates to the late eighteenth century.

The specific builder of the eighteenth-century one-room plan frame house has not been determined. Construction of the larger two sections is estimated at 1860-1870 during Charles T. Marshall's ownership of the property. Marshall purchased eighty-six acres in August of 1861 for \$4,000 (LW 7/167) and sold fifty-six acres in 1865 for \$5,000 (LW 8/636). The decreased acreage and the increase in property transfer suggests capital improvements on the farm. The architectural features of the house agree with the estimated date of construction.

After a settlement of the chancery court, the fifty-six acre property, referred to as "Pink Eye" in the 1874 deed, was purchased by John E. Covington and his wife, Mary E. Covington. The farm remained in Covington hands for a large part of the following seventy-five years.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-344

Magi No. 2003445504

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Covington House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side of Md. 529 (North Somerset Avenue) ☐ not for publicationcity, town Princess Anne ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Leslie and Nancy Brimer

street & number Rt. 1 Box 19 telephone no.: 651-3419

city, town Princess Anne state and zip code MD.21853

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Md. 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-344

Condition

___ excellent
☒ good
___ fair

___ deteriorated
___ ruins
___ unexposed

Check one

___ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
___ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Covington house stands on the east side of MD 529 (North Somerset Avenue extended) near Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story two-bay by three house faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in three stages, the weatherboard frame house is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and is covered by a pitched asphalt shingle roof. Attached to the back of the house is the oldest section, a single-story one-room plan structure held together with wrought-nails. It also has a tilted plate roof system.

The front (west) elevation is two-bay elevation framed by paneled pilasters. The gable end elevation follows an asymmetrical profile with a shed roof extending from the main gable roof. A four-panel, heavily molded door fills the south bay, and a six over six sash window marks the north bay. The entrance bay is covered by a turned post front porch, decorated with fan-shaped corner brackets. A turned baluster handrail stretches between each post. The second floor is pierced by two unevenly spaced six over six sash windows, and a smaller six over six sash window lights the attic. The eave is finished with a molded baseboard.

The south side of the main house is three bays across, and it is covered on the first floor by the shed roof, turned-post porch. The east end bay of the porch is enclosed and lighted by a six over six sash window. The second floor is marked by three unevenly spaced six over six sash, and the boxed cornice is trimmed with mid nineteenth-century bed and crown moldings. Rising from the center of the house is a brick chimney with a dentiled cap.

The north side of the main house is a symmetrical elevation with two six over six sash windows lighting each floor. The boxed cornice carries the same mid nineteenth-century moldings.

The east end of the house is partially covered by a shorter two-story, one-bay section which is covered by a medium sloped asphalt shingle roof and sheathed by weatherboard siding. The eave is finished with a plain boxed cornice, and the gable end is flush. A single-story, shed addition is attached to the south side, and both floors are lighted by six over six sash windows. Attached to the east end is the old kitchen, a single-story one-room plan section covered by a very steep asphalt shingle roof. A screened-in porch covers the south side of the old kitchen and a six over one sash window with an ovola-molded surround. The east end of the old kitchen has a door opening on the first floor, and a six over six sash window lights the loft.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-344

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Covington house is a three-part "telescope" dwelling significant for its surviving single-story eighteenth-century structure. Tilted false plate construction and remnants of wood pin roof distinguish the eighteenth-century section. The main house has remained largely intact with mid nineteenth-century woodwork. The side hall, double pile floor plan of the main house was accomplished in two stages with the stair hall included under a two-story shed roofed addition.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-344

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Princess AnneQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting					Northing			

B

Zone	Easting					Northing			

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historianorganization Somerset County Historical Trust date 1/7/86street & number 424 N. Somerset Avenue telephone 651-0077city or town Princess Anne state MD. 21853

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

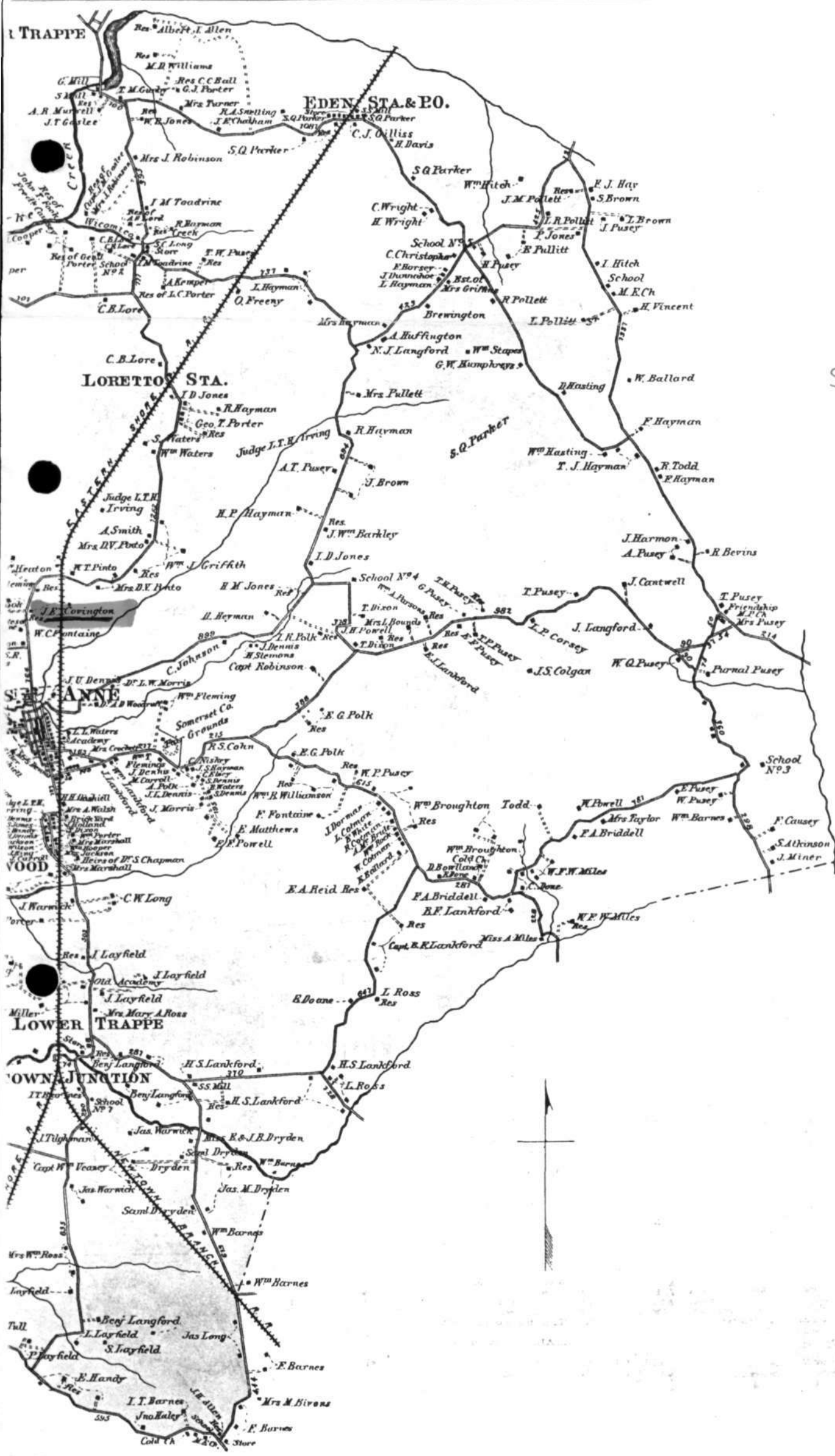
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

The interior of the main house is finished with mid to late nineteenth century woodwork. The stair, located in the southeast corner of the shed roofed section, is distinguished by a heavily turned newel post, turned balusters, and a molded handrail. Bold scrolled trim finishes the stringer. Four-panel doors open into the two rooms north of the hall which are also finished with mid nineteenth-century trim. The two hearths are framed by plain post and lintel mantels. A scar in the ceiling of the east room indicates the former location of the stair.

The middle section has been converted to a modern kitchen, while the old kitchen is now used as storage space. A beaded board partition separates a hall from the utility/ storage space. Fixed in the southwest corner is a winder stair that rises to the unfinished loft. Exposed within the stair space is the tilted false plate construction. The roof structure is also noted for its nailers which survive with the ends of wood pins that were used to fasten a former layer of shingles. The gable end studs are fixed by wrought nails, and the collar beams have been removed.



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Covington House

S-344

Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset Co., MD

Northwest Elevation

11/85, Paul Touart, photographer

Neg./Md Hist. Trust



Covington House

S-344

Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset Co., MD

South elevation

11/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./MD Hist. Trust



Covington House S-344
Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset Co., MD
West Elevation
11/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md Hist. Trust



Covington House

S-344

Princess Anne vicinity, Somerset Co., Md

Old Kitchen Window

11/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./MD Hist. Trust